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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

RUBEN RIVERA

v.

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY DETENTION
CENTER

CIVIL ACTION

NO. 10-3046

FILED

JUL 08 2010

MICHAEL E. KUNZ, Clerk
By KP Dep. Clerk

MEMORANDUM

Plaintiff, a prisoner at SCI Pittsburgh, seeks to bring a civil action in forma pauperis,¹ without prepayment of fees or security therefor, asserting claims pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. The Prison Litigation Reform Act of 1995, Pub. L. No. 104-134, 110 Stat. 1321 (April 26, 1996) (the "Act"), which amends 28 U.S.C. § 1915, establishes certain financial requirements for prisoners who are attempting to bring a civil action or file an appeal in forma pauperis.

Under the Act, a prisoner bringing a civil action in forma pauperis must pay the full amount of the \$350 filing fee. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1). The prisoner must submit a certified copy of his inmate trust fund account statement for the 6-month period immediately preceding the filing of his complaint so the Court can determine how the \$350 filing fee will be paid. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(2). The prisoner must obtain this statement from the appropriate official of each prison at which he was or is confined. Id. The Court must then "assess [the prisoner's financial status] and, when funds exist, collect, as a partial payment of any court fees required by law, an initial partial filing fee of 20 percent of the greater of-- (A) the average monthly deposits to the prisoner's account; or (B) the average monthly balance in the prisoner's account for the 6-month period immediately preceding the filing of the complaint"

Plaintiff in this case has submitted all of the required financial information. Based upon plaintiff's financial information, an initial partial filing fee of \$33.30 is assessed. The Superintendent or other appropriate official at SCI Pittsburgh, or at any prison at which plaintiff may be confined, will be directed to deduct \$33.30 from plaintiff's inmate account, when such

¹Suits brought in forma pauperis are governed by 28 U.S.C. § 1915.

funds become available, and forward that amount to the Clerk of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Thereafter, each time that the balance in plaintiff's inmate account exceeds \$10, an amount no greater than 20 percent of the money credited to plaintiff's account during the preceding month will be deducted and forwarded to the Clerk of Court until the filing fee is paid.

Plaintiff may not have known when he brought this action that he must pay the filing fee, and that even if the full filing fee, or any part of it, has been paid, the Court must dismiss the case if it finds that the action is: (1) frivolous or malicious; (2) fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted; or (3) seeks monetary relief against a defendant who is immune from such relief. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(c)(2)(B). If the Court dismisses the case for any of these reasons, the Act does not provide for a return of the filing fee to the plaintiff.

We shall give plaintiff twenty (20) days from the date of this order to decide whether he wants to proceed with this case. If by that time, plaintiff decides not to proceed with the case, he need not pay the \$350 filing fee.²

An appropriate Order follows.

² In deciding whether to proceed with this civil action, plaintiff should note that the Supreme Court has held that civil rights claims are most analogous to common law tort actions, and are subject to the state statute of limitations for personal injury actions. See Owens v. Okure, 488 U.S. 235 (1989). The Pennsylvania statute of limitations on a personal injury action is two years. See 42 Pa. Cons. Stat. Ann. § 5524. Plaintiff alleges that the events giving rise to his claims occurred between May of 2002 and November of 2002. He filed his complaint on June 23, 2010. Therefore, the action is now time barred.